

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 091300Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1679

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 0115

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PO YO

SUBJ: SOARES VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

1. PORTUGUESE FONMIN SOARES RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME DURING HIS THIRD VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA JAN 6-8. (FIRST TWO WERE AS POLITICAL EXILE). WELCOME STRONGLY UNDERLINED YUGOSLAV SATISFACTION WITH CURRENT TRENDS IN PORTUGAL. UNUSUAL ELEMENTS OF WELCOME INCLUDED EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING LENGTHY TV INTERVIEW, AND MEETINGS WITH ALL HIGHEST YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS INCLUDING PRESIDENT TITO.

2. VISIT, FIRST EVER BY PORTUGUES MINISTER, EVIDENTLY REGARDED HERE AS OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BEGUN AFTER APRIL 1974 COUP. (RELATIONS, WHILE NEVER ACTUALLY BROKEN, WERE SUSPENDED IN 1948 WITH CLOSING OF YUGOSLAV MISSION IN LISBON.) ISSUANCE OF VISIT COMMUNIQUE COINCIDED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENT OF YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL.

3. IN JAN 6 DISCUSSIONS WITH YUGOSLAV FONSEC MINIC, SOARES EMPHASIZED THAT "PORTUGAL IS A MEMBER OF WESTERN ALLIANCES AND HER PRESENT FOREIGN POLICY IS BUILT ON THAT CIRCUMSTANCE." THIS FACT "COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD BY YUGOSLAV SIDE" REPORTED BELGRADE  
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DAILY POLITIKA JAN 7. SOARES ALSO RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY

OF YUGOSLAVIA, AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR YUGOSLAV "ASSISTANCE AND UNDERSTANDING" DURING DEMOCRATIC EVOLUTION IN PORTUGAL. DOMINANT NOTE FROM YUGOSLAV SIDE WAS SATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT CHANGES IN PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE DE-COLONIALIZATION MOVES IN AFRICA. SOARES ALSO JOINED YUGOSLAVS IN CALLING FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION.

4. SOARES SELF-IDENTIFICATION AS MARXIST CAME UNDER QUESTION IN JAN 7 BELGRADE TV INTERVIEW. COMMENTATOR INQUIRED HOW THIS COULD BE RECONCILED WITH SOARES POSITION IN SOCIALIST PARTY AND WITH COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN LABOR PARTIES. SOARES CALLED THIS "ABSOLUTELY NORMAL" IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. SOCIALISTS BACK A POLICY OF INDEPENDENT POLICY DETERMINED INDEPENDENTLY (AS DO YUGOSLAV COMMUNISTS.) BOTH SOCIALISTS AND MARXISTS SHARE A DEMOCRATIC VISION OF SOCIALISM. THUS THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION THAT PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS ARE ALSO MARXISTS.

5. FINAL COMMUNIQUE DECLARED INTENTION TO CONCLUDE IN NEAR FUTURE TRADE AGREEMENT, CULTURAL CONVENTION, AGREEMENT ON TECHNO-SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, AND AGREEMENT ON VISA ABOLITION. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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